



ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

MAY 12 2015

The Honorable Louise M. Slaughter
Ranking Member
Committee on Rules
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

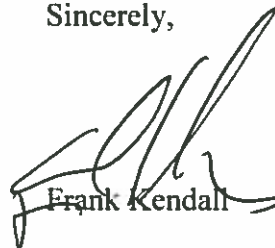
Dear Representative Slaughter:

Thank you for your April 8, 2015, letter to Secretary of Defense regarding your concern for potential gender bias that might inhibit women and girls from participating in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields. I am responding on behalf of Secretary Carter.

The Department of Defense (DoD) is committed to a fair and equitable grant-making process and recognizes that demographic data is a key input to any study of potential gender bias. DoD has found no legal hurdles that would prevent the Department from collecting this data and will collaborate with other Federal agencies already capturing demographic data to determine best practices before beginning data collection.

Your continued support of the Department of Defense and STEM workforce is deeply appreciated. An identical response is being sent to the other signatories of your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Kendall", is written over a printed name label.

Frank Kendall